



## Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY  
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



**SUNDAY:**

**MARRYBELL MADURO**  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**MONDAY:**

**ANGELA FLORES**  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**TUESDAY:**

**JEAN PAUL**  
SAXOPHONIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**WEDNESDAY:**

**EDDIE KROON**  
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

**MAILLEYN ALVARADO**  
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

**KARAOKE** 9:00 - 11:00pm

**THURSDAY:**

**MARRYBELL MADURO**  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**FRIDAY:**

**RICKY THOMAS**  
GUITARIST  
7:00 - 9:00pm

**SATURDAY:**

**EDDIE KROON**  
SINGER  
4:00 - 6:00pm

**ANGELA FLORES**  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm



**WATER'S EDGE**  
RESTAURANT & BAR



**costa linda**  
beach resort

**Happy Hour**  
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

\*\*\*  
PREMIUM  
BRANDS  
\*\*\*



# Federal judge strikes down workplace protections for transgender workers

By **CLAIRE SAVAGE**  
**The Associated Press**

A federal judge in Texas struck down guidance from a government agency specifying protections against workplace harassment based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Judge Matthew J. Kacsmaryk of U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas on Thursday determined that the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission exceeded its statutory authority when the agency issued guidance to employers against deliberately using the wrong pronouns for an employee, refusing them access to bathrooms corresponding with their gender identity, and barring employees from wearing dress code-compliant clothing according to their gender identity because they may constitute forms of workplace harassment.

Kacsmaryk said the guidance is "inconsistent with the text, history, and tradition of Title VII and recent Supreme Court prece-



The emblem of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is shown on a podium in Vail, Colorado, Feb. 16, 2016, in Denver.

dent."

Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects employees and job applicants from employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin.

The EEOC, which enforces workplace anti-discrimination laws, had updated its guidance on workplace harassment in April of last

year under President Joe Biden for the first time in 25 years. It followed a 2020 Supreme Court ruling that gay, lesbian and transgender people are protected from employment discrimination.

Texas and the Heritage Foundation, the conservative think tank behind Project 2025, in August challenged the guidance,

which the agency says serves as a tool for employers to assess compliance with anti-discrimination laws and is not legally binding.

Kacsmaryk disagreed, writing that the guidance creates "mandatory standards from which legal consequences will necessarily flow if an employer fails to comply."

Associated Press

The decision marks the latest blow to workplace protections for transgender workers following President Donald Trump's Jan. 20 executive order declaring that the government would recognize only two "immutable" sexes: male and female.

Kacsmaryk, a 2017 Trump nominee, invalidated all portions of the EEOC guidance that defines "sex" to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity," along with an entire section addressing the subject.

"Title VII does not require employers or courts to blind themselves to the biological differences between men and women," he wrote in the opinion.

Heritage Foundation president Kevin Roberts commended the decision in an emailed statement: "The Biden EEOC tried to compel businesses and the American people to deny basic biological truth. Today, thanks to the great state of Texas and the work of my Heritage colleagues, a federal judge said: not so fast." □

# Supreme Court rejects Trump bid to resume quick deportations of Venezuelans under 18th century law

By **MARK SHERMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court on Friday rejected the Trump administration's appeal to quickly resume deportations of Venezuelans under an 18th century wartime law.

Over two dissenting votes, the justices acted on an emergency appeal from lawyers for Venezuelan men who have been accused of being gang members, a designation that the administration says makes them eligible for rapid removal from the United States under the Alien Enemies Act of 1798.

The high court had already called a temporary halt to the deportations from a north Texas detention facility in a middle-of-the-night order issued last month.

Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas dissented.

The case is among several making their way through the courts over President Donald Trump's proclamation in March calling the Tren de Aragua gang a for-

eign terrorist organization and invoking the 1798 law to deport people.

The high court case centers on the opportunity people must have to contest their removal from the United States, without determining whether Trump's invoca-

tion of the law was appropriate.

"We recognize the significance of the Government's national security interests as well as the necessity that such interests be pursued in a manner consistent with the Constitution," the justices said in an unsigned opinion.

At least three federal judges have said Trump was improperly using the AEA to speed deportations of people the administration says are Venezuelan gang members.

On Tuesday, a judge in Pennsylvania signed off on the use of the law.

The court-by-court approach to deportations under the AEA flows from another Supreme Court order that took a case away from a judge in Washing-

ton, D.C., and ruled detainees seeking to challenge their deportations must do so where they are held.

The justices said in April that people must be given "reasonable time" to file a challenge.

The court has rejected the 12 hours the administration has said would be sufficient, but has not otherwise spelled out how long it meant.

U.S. District Judge Stephanie Haines ordered immigration officials to give people 21 days in her opinion in which she otherwise said deportations could legally take place under the AEA.

The Supreme Court on Friday also made clear that it was not blocking other ways the government may deport people. □



The Supreme Court at sunset in Washington, Feb. 13, 2016.

Associated Press



# Conservatives block Trump's big tax breaks bill in a stunning setback

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — In a setback, House Republicans failed Friday to push their big package of tax breaks and spending cuts through the Budget Committee, as a handful of conservatives joined all Democrats in a stunning vote against it.

The hard-right lawmakers are insisting on steeper spending cuts to Medicaid and the Biden-era green energy tax breaks, among other changes, before they will give their support to President Donald Trump's "beautiful" bill. They warn the tax cuts alone would pile onto the nation's \$36 trillion debt.

The failed vote, 16-21, stalls, for now, House Speaker Mike Johnson's push to have the package approved next week. But the Budget Committee plans to reconvene Sunday to try again. Lawmakers vowed to negotiate into the weekend as Trump is returning to Washington from the Middle East.

"Something needs to change or you're not going to get my support," said Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas.

Tallying a whopping 1,116 pages, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, named with a nod to Trump, is teetering at a critical moment. Johnson is determined to resolve the problems with the package that he believes will inject a dose of stability into a wavering economy.

With few votes to spare from his slim majority, the Republicans are trying to pass it over the staunch objections of Democrats who slammed the package as a "big, bad bill," or as Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., called it, "one big, beautiful betrayal."

Ahead of Friday's vote, Trump had implored his party to fall in line.

"Republicans MUST UNITE behind, 'THE ONE, BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL!'" the Republican president posted on social media. "We don't need 'GRANDSTANDERS'



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., joined from left by House Majority Whip Tom Emmer, R-Minn., and House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., talks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington, April 8, 2025.

Associated Press

in the Republican Party. STOP TALKING, AND GET IT DONE!"

The Budget panel is one of the final stops before the package is sent to the full House floor for a vote, which is still expected sometime next week. Typically, the job of the Budget Committee is more administrative as it compiles the work of 11 committees that drew up various parts of the big bill.

But Friday's meeting proved momentous even before the votes were tallied.

The conservatives, many from the Freedom Caucus, had been warning they would block the bill, as they holdout for steeper cuts. At the same time, GOP lawmakers from high-tax states including New York are demanding a deeper tax deduction, known as SALT, for their constituents.

Four Republican conservatives initially voted against the package Roy and Reps. Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma, Rep. Andrew Clyde of Georgia. Then one, Rep. Lloyd Smucker of Pennsylvania, switched his vote to no in a procedural step so it could be reconsidered later,

saying afterward he was confident they'd "get this done."

Norman insisted he was not defying the president "this isn't a 'grandstand,'" he said as he and the others push from Trump's priorities. In their quest for deeper reductions, the conservatives are particularly eyeing Medicaid, the health care program for some 70 million Americans. They want new work requirements for aid recipients to start immediately, rather than on Jan. 1, 2029, as the package proposes.

Democrats emphasized that millions of people would lose their health coverage and food stamps assistance if the bill passes while the wealthiest Americans would reap enormous tax cuts. They also said it would increase future deficits.

"That is bad economics. It is unconscionable," said Rep. Brendan Boyle, the top Democratic lawmaker on the panel.

At the same time, talks are also underway with the New Yorkers have been unrelenting in their demand for a much larger SALT deduction than what is proposed in the bill, which could send the overall cost

of the package skyrocketing.

As it stands, the bill proposes tripling what's currently a \$10,000 cap on the state and local tax deduction, increasing it to \$30,000 for joint filers with incomes up to \$400,000 a year.

Rep. Nick LaLota, one of the New York lawmakers leading the SALT effort, said they have proposed a deduction of \$62,000 for single filers and \$124,000 for joint filers.

The conservatives and the New Yorkers are at odds, each jockeying as Johnson labors to pass the package from the House by Memorial Day and send it onto the Senate.

At its core, the sprawling package extends the existing income tax cuts that were approved during Trump's first term, in 2017, and adds new ones that the president campaigned on in 2024, including no taxes on tips, overtime pay and some auto loans.

It increases some tax breaks for middle-income earners, including a bolstered standard deduction of \$32,000 for joint filers and a temporary \$500 boost to the child tax credit, bringing it to \$2,500.

It also provides an infusion

of \$350 billion for Trump's deportation agenda and to bolster the Pentagon.

To offset more than \$5 trillion in lost revenue, the package proposes rolling back other tax breaks, namely the green energy tax credits approved as part of President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. Some conservatives want those to end immediately.

The package also seeks to cover the costs by slashing more than \$1 trillion from health care and food assistance programs over the course of a decade, in part by imposing work requirements on able-bodied adults.

Certain Medicaid recipients would need to engage in 80 hours a month of work or other community options to receive health care. Older Americans receiving food aid through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, would also see the program's current work requirement for able-bodied participants without dependents extended to include those ages 55-64. States would also be required to shoulder a greater share of the program's cost.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates at least 7.6 million fewer people with health insurance and about 3 million a month fewer SNAP recipients with the changes. While Republicans insist the package will pay for itself, partly with economic growth, outside budget analysts are skeptical and say it will add trillions of dollars to the nation's deficits and debt. □





# Sheriff says there are indications 10 fugitives who escaped New Orleans jail had inside help

By JACK BROOK, JIM MUS-TIAN and SARA CLINE

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Ten men who were incarcerated in a New Orleans jail broke out Friday in an audacious overnight escape that the local sheriff says may have involved members of their own department, utilizing facility deficiencies that officials long complained about.

The men escaped through a hole behind a toilet and scaled one of the prison walls. Their disappearance was not noticed for hours, until a Friday routine morning headcount. One of the fugitives was apprehended after a brief foot chase through the French Quarter, but the nine others three of which are incarcerated on charge of second-degree murder are still on the lam and considered dangerous.

Orleans Parish Sheriff Susan Hutson said the fugitives were able to get out of the Orleans Justice Center because of "defective locks." Hutson said she has continuously raised concerns about the locks to



This photo obtained by The Associated Press on Friday, May 16, 2025, shows an opening inside a cell at the Orleans Justice Center in New Orleans.

Associated Press

officials and, as recently as this week, advocated for money to fix the ailing infrastructure.

Hutson said there are indications that people inside her department who helped the fugitives escape.

"We do acknowledge

there is no way people can get out of this facility without there being some type of lapse in security," Hutson said of the jail, where she says 1,400 people are being held. "It's almost impossible, not completely, but almost impossible for anybody to get out of this facil-

ity without help."

Hutson said the 10 men "breached" a wall behind a toilet around 1 a.m. A photograph obtained by The Associated Press from law enforcement shows the opening in question. Above the hole are scrawled messages that include "To Easy

LOL" with an arrow pointing at the gap.

Hutson said surveillance footage shows the men exiting through a loading dock door, scaling a wall and running across an interstate.

Authorities did not notice the men were missing until 8:30. Authorities initially said 11 had escaped, but at a Friday afternoon news conference said one man thought to have escaped was in a different cell.

The escapees range from 19 years old to 42. Most of the men are in their 20s.

One of the fugitives, Derrick Groves, was convicted on two charges of second-degree murder and two charges of attempted second-degree murder last year for his role in the 2018 Mardi Gras Day shootings of two men. He also faces a charge of battery against a correctional facility employee, court records show. In a press release, law enforcement warned that the fugitive may attempt to locate witnesses in the murder trial. □

# Army to place large metal plates on D.C. streets to protect them from tanks during June parade

By TARA COPP and MICHELLE L. PRICE

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Army will place large metal plates at key points on the streets of Washington to better protect the pavement from the movements of 25 M1 Abrams main battle tanks set to roll through the capital on June 14, a U.S. official told the Associated Press.

The tanks are a key part of a parade that will honor the Army's 250th birthday and fall on President Donald Trump's 79th birthday. Since it was announced, the parade has grown in scope and participation, and one of the highlights will be columns of tanks rolling in formation along Constitution Avenue. Each Abrams tank can weigh 60

tons or more and carry a crew of four.

Concerns over the tanks' weight, and what that would do to D.C.'s streets, ultimately kept them from being used for a parade during Trump's first term.

The metal plates are seen as the best way to protect the streets. Each plate weighs hundreds of pounds and will be placed at points along the parade route where the tanks will turn and where their metal

and rubber-shoed tracking that helps them move can do the most damage, the official said.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser has said if tanks are used on the city's roads, funding to repair any damage they may do should also be part of the plans. Asked on Friday for a response to the Army's plan for metal plates, her office referred to her past comments.

Movement of a single M1 Abrams tank is a loud affair. Movement of 25 in unison is expected to be thunderous, the official said.

The parade and celebration will likely cost between \$25 million and \$45 million, a White House official told The Associated Press. It will involve thousands of troops also marching in formation, in uniforms representing

every U.S. conflict dating back to the Revolutionary War, which began in 1775. Each war will have 60 troops in period costume, followed by 400 troops from that same unit in their regular battle dress uniforms. For example, the Civil War will be represented by the Army's 4th Infantry Division, based in Fort Carson, Colorado, with 60 soldiers wearing historical costumes and 400 in today's uniforms.

Overall the parade plans call for about 6,600 soldiers, 150 vehicles and 50 helicopters to follow a route from the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, to the National Mall.

The late-afternoon parade will be followed by a parachute jump by the Army's Golden Knights, a concert and the fireworks. □



An M1 Abrams tank is displayed outside the Tank-Army Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) in Warren, Mich., Friday, May 13, 2005.

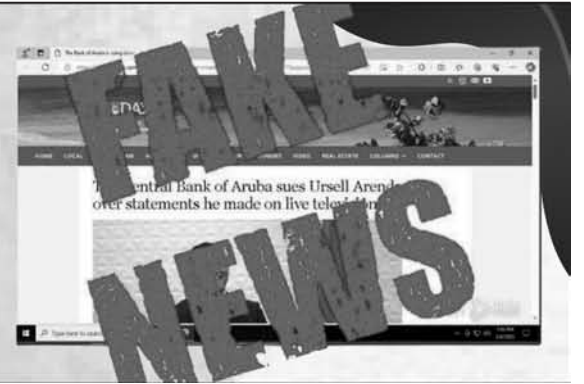
Associated Press



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## Trump says Iran has a proposal from the U.S. on its rapidly advancing nuclear program

By ZEKE MILLER and JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

**ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that Iran has an American proposal over its rapidly advancing nuclear program as negotiations between the two countries go on.

Trump's remarks represent the first time he's acknowledged an American proposal is with Tehran after multiple rounds of negotiations between U.S. Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Negotiations have gotten into the "expert" level — meaning the two sides are trying to see if they can reach any agreement on the details of any possible deal.

But one major sticking point remains Iran's enrichment of uranium, which Tehran insists it must be allowed to do and the Trump administration increasingly insists



President Donald Trump talks before signing guest book at the Abrahamic Family House, Friday, May 16, 2025, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

the Islamic Republic must give up.

Trump discusses proposal on Air Force One

Trump made the comment aboard Air Force One as he ended his trip to the United Arab Emirates, the

last stop on his three-nation tour of the Middle East that also included Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

At nearly every event he attended in the region, he insisted that Iran could not be allowed to obtain a nucle-

ar bomb something American intelligence agencies assess Tehran is not actively pursuing though its program is on the cusp of being able to weaponize.

A reporter asked Trump: "On Iran, has the U.S. given

them a formal proposal? Has Steve Witkoff handed that over?"

"They have a proposal," Trump responded. "But most importantly, they know they have to move quickly, or something bad is going to happen."

Trump did not elaborate on the substance of the proposal and Iran did not immediately acknowledge having it.

On Thursday, Araghchi spoke to journalists at the Tehran International Book Fair and said that Iran did not have any proposal from the Americans yet.

Araghchi also criticized what he called conflicting and inconsistent statements from the Trump administration, describing them as either a sign of disarray in Washington or a calculated negotiation strategy. Witkoff at one point suggested that Iran could enrich uranium at 3.67%, then later began saying that all Iranian enrichment must stop. □

Associated Press

## ICC prosecutor Karim Khan steps aside pending outcome of sexual misconduct investigation

By MOLLY QUELL

Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has stepped down temporarily pending the outcome of an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct, the court announced Friday. Karim Khan has categorically denied accusations that he tried for more than a year to coerce a female aide into a sexual relationship and groped her against her will. The ICC's announcement was welcomed by women's rights groups, who had called for Khan to step down after the allegations emerged last year.

"In any other professional setting, someone facing such serious allegations would have been expected to step down

months ago," said Eimear Shine, a spokesperson for The Hague-based Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice.

An investigation by The Associated Press last year found that two court employees, in whom the alleged victim confided, reported the alleged misconduct in May 2024 to the court's independent watchdog. That was a few weeks before Khan sought arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his defense minister and three Hamas leaders on war crimes charges.

The watchdog said it interviewed the woman and ended its inquiry after five days when she opted against filing a formal complaint. Khan himself wasn't questioned at the time. □



Karim Khan, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court looks up prior to a press conference in The Hague, Netherlands, July 3, 2023

Associated Press



# U.N. agency, Rohingya refugees allege Indian authorities cast dozens of them into the sea near Myanmar

By **SHEIKH SAALIQ** and **PIYUSH NAGPAL**

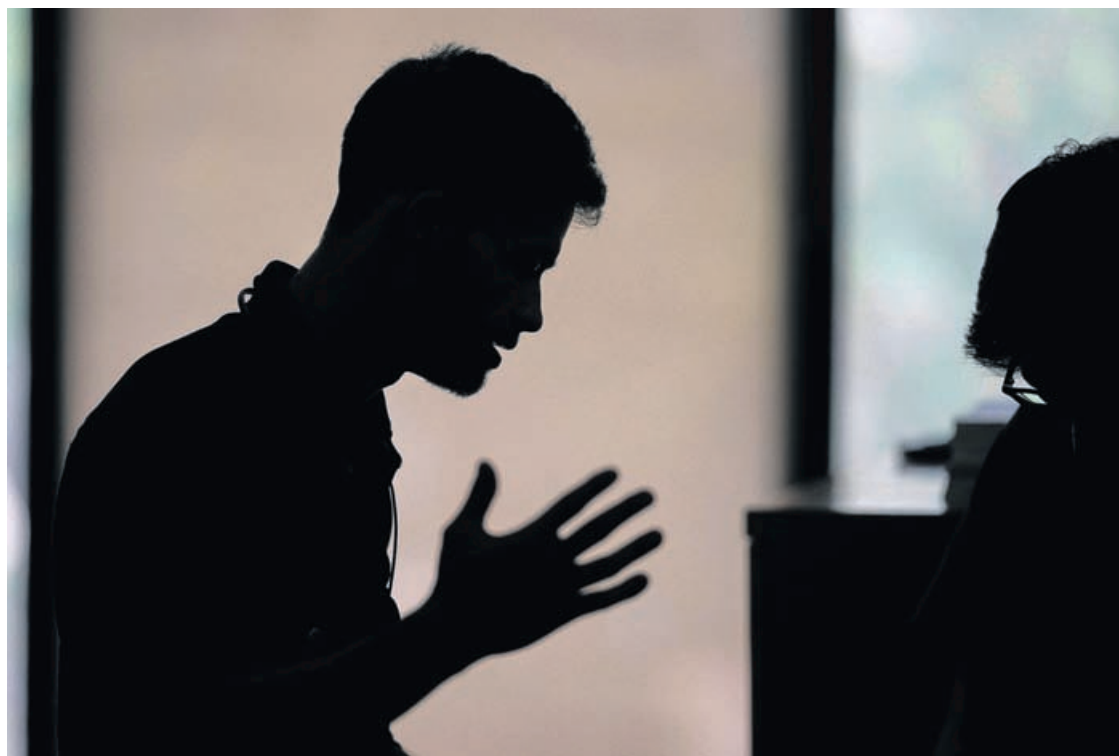
**Associated Press**

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Indian authorities allegedly forced dozens of Rohingya refugees off a naval vessel into the sea near Myanmar last week after providing them with life jackets, a United Nations agency, family members of the refugees and their lawyer said.

The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, in a statement on Thursday, said at least 40 Rohingya refugees were detained in New Delhi and cast into the sea by the Indian navy near the maritime border with Myanmar. The refugees including children, women and older people swam ashore, but their whereabouts in Myanmar remain unknown, the agency said.

Five Rohingya refugees on Friday confirmed to the Associated Press that their family members were part of the group that were detained by Indian authorities on May 6. The group, including 15 Christians, were flown in an aircraft and later cast into the sea by Indian navy authorities on May 8, they said.

Dilawar Hussain, a lawyer representing the refugees, said the families have filed



**A Rohingya refugee who has not been identified due to safety concerns, talks to The Associated Press in New Delhi, India, about how his family was deported to an island in Myanmar, Friday, May 16, 2025.**

a petition in India's top court, urging the Indian government to bring them back to New Delhi.

India's navy and foreign ministry declined to comment.

In its statement Thursday, the rights office said it had appointed a U.N. expert to probe into what it called were "unconscionable, unacceptable acts."

The U.N. agency urged the Indian government to refrain from "inhumane and

life-threatening treatment of Rohingya refugees, including their repatriation into perilous conditions in Myanmar."

Tom Andrews, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, called the incident "blatant disregard for the lives and safety of those who require international protection" and "nothing short of outrageous."

"Such cruel actions would be an affront to human

decency and represent a serious violation of the principle of non-refoulement, a fundamental tenet of international law that prohibits states from returning individuals to a territory where they face threats to their lives or freedom," Andrews said in the statement.

India does not have a national policy or a law to deal with refugees. It is also not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. But hundreds of

thousands of Muslim Rohingya refugees have fled persecution in Myanmar after suffering oppression in Myanmar's Rakhine state, where officials have been accused of genocide.

According to Refugees International, of the estimated 40,000 Rohingya refugees living in India at least 22,500 are registered with the UNHCR. Many of them live in squalid camps in various Indian states.

One of those refugees, who has not been identified by AP due to safety concerns, said his brother was among those returned. He said he received a call from his brother on May 8 after he managed to borrow a phone from a local fisherman after making landfall on an island in Myanmar.

He told him Indian authorities removed their restraints and blindfolds, gave them life jackets and told them swim to an island in Myanmar territory.

"My parents were taken from me and thrown into the waters," said the man, whose two brothers, parents and a sister-in-law were part of the group, according to his brother. "It would be enough if I am reunited with my parents. I just want my parents, nothing else." □

**Associated Press**

# Philippines Senate race a blow to President Marcos as he feuds with Vice President Duterte

By **TERESA CEROJANO**

**Associated Press**

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**

— Key allies of detained

former President Rodrigo Duterte and two liberal opposition candidates were among top winners in the

May 12 Senate race in the Philippines, according to official results released Friday by the Election Commission. The midterm election outcome provided unexpectedly strong backing for Duterte and boosted his daughter, Vice President Sara Duterte, ahead of her impeachment trial in the Senate in July.

The election also was a blow to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s administration, whose candidates did not do as well as expected in midterm polls when the president's influence is usually strong, analysts said.

Five of the 12 Senate race

winners were endorsed by Sara Duterte, including the president's sister, Imee Marcos, and Camille Villar, another Marcos alliance candidate from a wealthy political family. Five others were aligned with Marcos, while two surprise winners were from the opposition. Two Duterte allies were among the top five.

Christopher Go, a former Cabinet member under the elder Duterte, led the Senate winners with more than 27 million votes. Ronald dela Rosa, Duterte's first national police chief and executor of his deadly anti-drugs campaign, ranked

third.

Erwin Tulfo, a news anchor and candidate from the Marcos slate who was topping pre-election surveys, only managed fourth place. Two opposition members, Bam Aquino and Kiko Pangilinan, took second and fifth place, respectively.

The election results reflected "a vote against the administration," political analyst Ronald Llamas said, adding that it wasn't a vote for the Dutertes because many anti-Duterte candidates also won, including in the lower house of Congress. □



**Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is seen on a screen in the courtroom of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands, March 14, 2025.**

**Associated Press**



## Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



(Oranjestad)—In this article, we would like to share with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations.

### Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with

hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

### Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big



trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate

skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

**Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris**

## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

**NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then**

**settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.**

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of

glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beau-

tiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

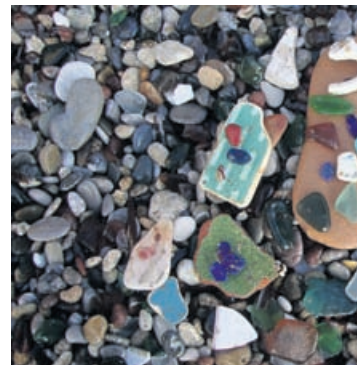
If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you



are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □





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Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More  
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market  
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry  
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard  
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts  
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique  
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

## How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

### How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual

breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower



ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

### Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island.

The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



## Aruba to me



**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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## The Santanero

(Oranjestad)—If you have ever or will ever go off-roading on the island, you may encounter three types of snakes that are dominant on the island. The Santanero is the tinier specie native to the island, and local perspective on them may help you understand what you need to do if you ever were to encounter one during your touring session on the island.

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is a small fella, typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. Native as well to the is-

land, this snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans, but can paralyze small lizards and frogs.

Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species. □



## Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!



(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally

constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center

Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog. □







## Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

**Many years ago, Cha\* Tiger did not live in the mondi\*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.**

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said. "Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things. "You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense." "I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei\*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria\* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch. Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.





## Adriaan Laclé

### One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century

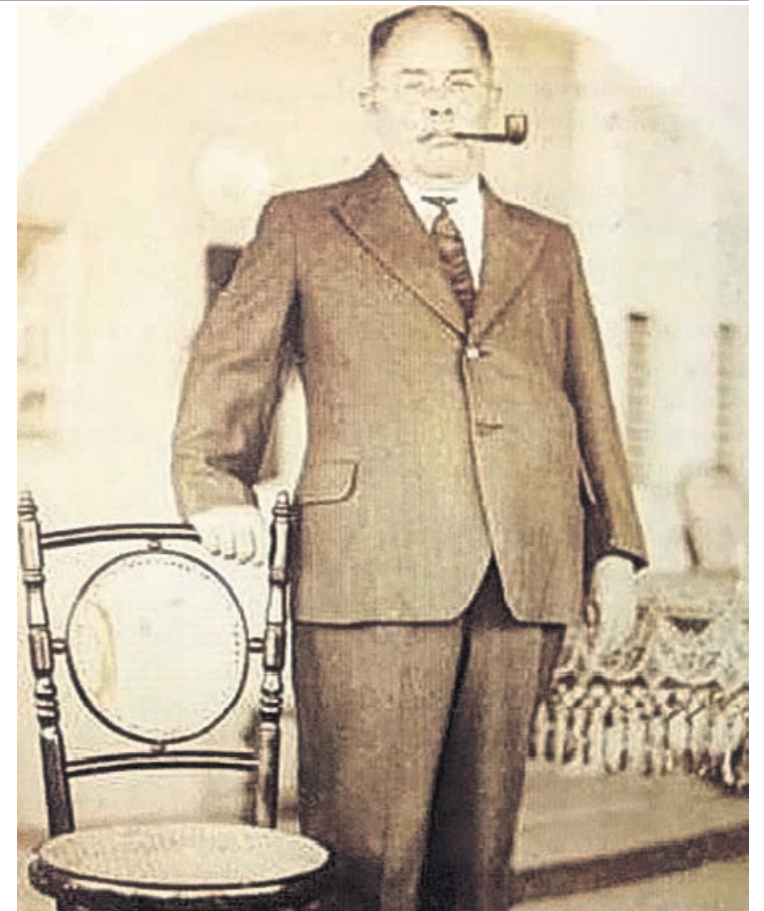


(Oranjestad)—The name **Adriaan Laclé** may ring a bell to locals as one of the bigger roads on the island, but about a century ago, **Adriaan Laclé** was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood

upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hey day he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected

his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad. Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. How-



ever, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as a townhall,

used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: *De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)* by Evert Bongers.

## The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the **Bali Restaurant** was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best res-

taurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti



Arends.

monument.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

Source and pictures credit to: *"De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)"* by Evert Bongers.





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

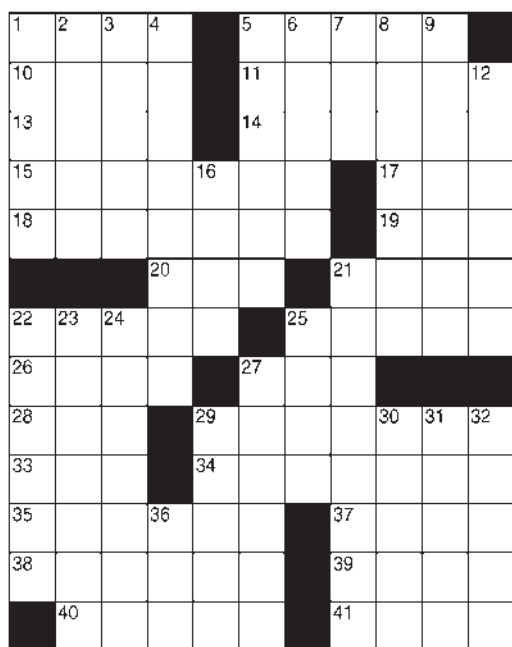
## ACROSS

- 37 Singer  
1 Gift-wrapping need  
5 Lesser-played half of a 45  
10 Beige  
11 Indivisible numbers  
13 Fleet member  
14 Tuba sound  
15 Hardy hen  
17 Poem of praise  
18 Classifies  
19 Cath. or Prot.  
20 Beam of light  
21 Lab bottle  
22 Delicate  
25 Deceitful people  
26 Maggie and Bart's sister  
27 Singer  
28 Play division  
29 Furniture wheels  
33 Question of identity  
34 Coin-op eatery  
35 Bit of gossip

- 38 Least moist  
39 "What's — for me?"  
40 Copen-hagen natives  
41 Totals

## DOWN

- 1 Inventor  
2 Massage targets  
3 Puritanical ones  
4 Bliss  
5 Stylish  
6 Some golf clubs  
7 Poorly lit  
8 Stores  
9 "Come on, help me out"  
12 Beach-combing finds  
16 Vaccine type  
21 Long-reigning queen  
22 Imperfect  
23 Explorer  
24 Oregon city  
25 Shopping aid  
27 Bank fixtures  
29 Lead to  
30 Correct, as text  
31 Zealous  
32 ERA  
36 Marsh



5-22

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-22

## CRYPTOQUOTE

Y N N Q J U A P Z L K Z E A  
F N G G Z F A N K , E G Q V E R L P U  
E K Z A P Z F Z I Z G A . — W P J V  
K N U Z G A P E V

**Cryptoquote:** YOU THINK YOUR PAIN AND YOUR HEARTBREAK ARE UNPRECEDENTED IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, BUT THEN YOU READ. — JAMES BALDWIN



# Cruise ship Schedule: May 13 - 20 2025

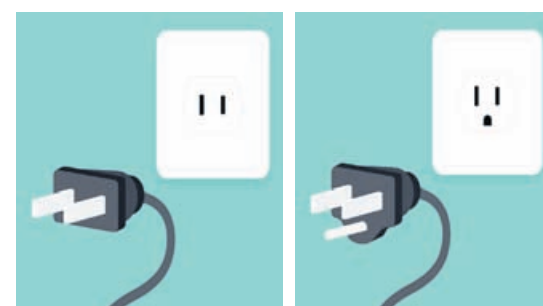
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	13	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	23.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	14	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	15	CARNIVAL VENEZIA	09.00	22.00	C	1
SUN	18	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	20	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1

# Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

## Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



## Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



## Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



## Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.





# Fortnite says it's offline on Apple's iOS around the world

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS and MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Fortnite says it's now unavailable on Apple's iOS globally because the tech giant blocked a bid to rerelease the popular video game for iPhone users in the U.S. and Europe marking the latest twist in a yearslong feud.

Apple pulled Epic Games-owned Fortnite from its app store back in 2020, just two years after the widely-popular, multiplayer survival game had launched on iOS and garnered millions of users. iPhone players in the U.S. have been locked out since, although Apple users in the EU had been able to download the game through an alternative store over the last nine months. Following years of a tense litigation, a recent court ruling was set to clear the way for Fortnite to finally return to iOS users in the U.S., too. But the video game said early Friday that a move from Apple has prevented that and, as a result, Fortnite says it's now dark on iOS globally.

"Apple has blocked our Fortnite submission so we cannot release to the U.S. App Store or to the Epic Games Store for iOS in the European Union," Fortnite wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. "Sadly, Fortnite on iOS will be offline worldwide until Apple unblocks it."

In a statement sent to The Associated Press, Apple said it had asked Epic Sweden to resubmit the app update "without including the U.S. storefront of the App Store so as not to impact Fortnite in other geographies." Sweden is where Epic's developer account for its alternative app store is based.

But, Apple added, it "did not take any action to remove the live version of Fortnite from alternative distribution marketplaces." Epic did not immediately respond to a request for further comment.



Shoppers look at Apple products in the Apple Store at the Walden Galleria in Buffalo, NY, on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024.

Associated Press

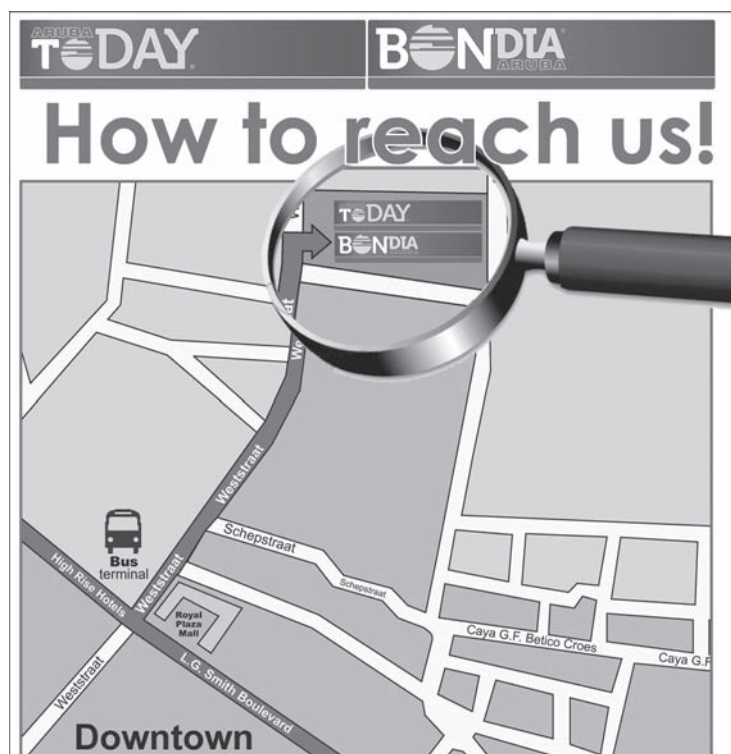
In the U.S., Epic filed an antitrust lawsuit against Apple back in 2020, alleging the technology trendsetter was illegally using its power to gouge game makers. After a monthlong trial in 2021, U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers ruled against most of Epic's claims, but ordered Apple to loosen its previously-exclusive control over the payments made for in-app commerce and allow links to alternative options in the U.S. for the first time threatening to undercut sizable commissions that Apple had been collecting from

in-app transactions for over a decade.

After exhausting an appeal that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, Apple last year introduced a new system that opened the door for links to alternative payment options while still imposing a 27% commission on in-app transactions executed outside its own system.

Epic fired back by alleging Apple was thumbing its nose at the legal system, reviving another round of court hearings that lasted nearly a year before Gonzalez Rogers delivered a

stinging rebuke last month which held Apple in civil contempt and banned the company from collecting any commission on alternative payment systems. □



## Editor

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## Editors

Pilar Flores  
Richard Brooks  
Angenette Figuereo

## Sales

Mark Gomes  
Sulaika Croes

## Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

## Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

## Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
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#### San Nicolas

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#### San Nicolas:

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+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

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Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
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Tel. 736 2952  
Narcotics Anonymous  
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Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400  
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



# Like it or not, the Like button has changed the world

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

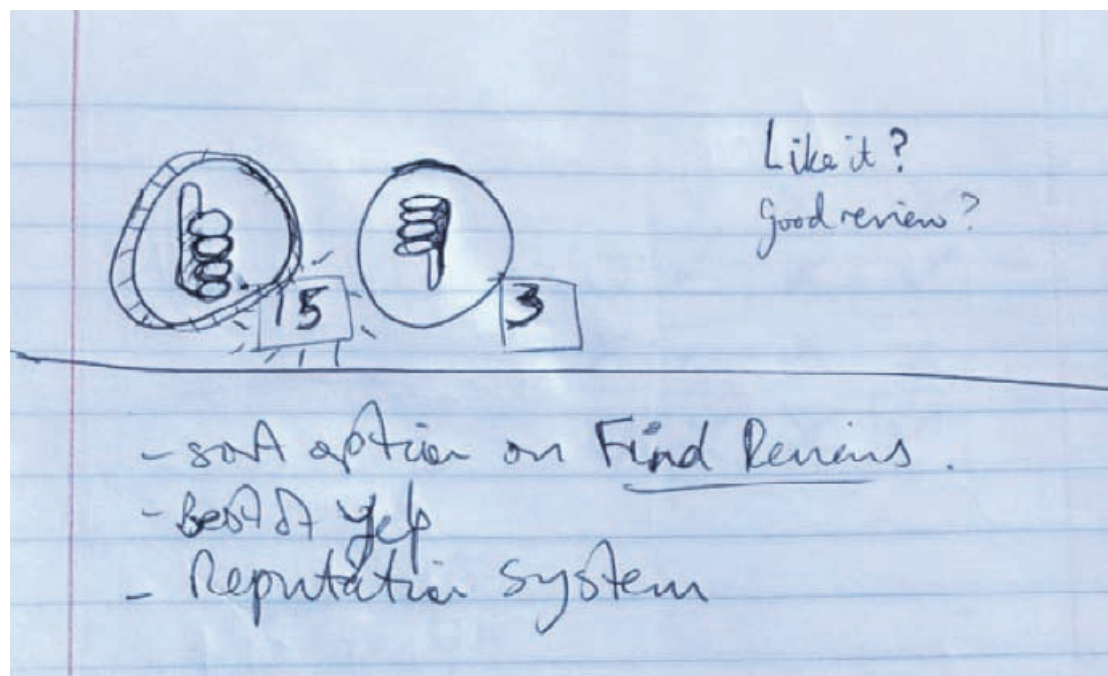
The internet wouldn't be the same without the Like button, the thumbs-up icon that Facebook and other online services turned into digital catnip.

Like it or not, the button has served as a creative catalyst, a dopamine delivery system and an emotional battering ram. It also became an international tourist attraction after Facebook plastered the symbol on a giant sign on that stood outside its Silicon Valley headquarters until the company rebranded itself as Meta Platforms in 2021.

A new book, "Like: The Button That Changed The World," delves into the convoluted story behind a symbol that's become both the manna and bane of a digitally driven society. It's a tale that traces back to gladiator battles for survival during the Roman empire before fast-forwarding to the early 21st century when technology trailblazers such as Yelp co-founder Russ Simmons, Twitter co-founder Biz Stone, PayPal co-founder Max Levchin, YouTube co-founder Steve Chen, and Gmail inventor Paul Buchheit were experimenting with different ways using the currency of recognition to prod people to post compelling content online for free.

As part of that noodling, a Yelp employee named Bob Goodson sat down on May 18, 2005, and drew a crude sketch of thumbs up and thumbs down gesture as a way for people to express their opinions about restaurant reviews posted on the site. Yelp passed on adopting Goodson's suggested symbol and, instead, adopted the "useful," "funny" and "cool" buttons conceived by Simmons. But the discovery of that old sketch inspired Goodson to team up with Martin Reeves to explore how the Like button came to be in their new book.

"It's something simple and also elegant because the Like button says, 'I like you, I like your content. And I am



This image provided by BCG shows a sketch by Bob Goodson that included a crude concept of what would become the Like button on May 18, 2005.

(BCG via Associated Press)

like you. I like you because I am like you, I am part of your tribe,' " Reeves said during an interview with The Associated Press. "But it's very hard to answer the simple question, 'Well, who invented the Like button?' "

## The social wellspring behind a social symbol

Although Facebook is the main reason the Like button became so ubiquitous, the company didn't invent it and almost discarded it as drivel. It took Facebook nearly two years to overcome the staunch resistance by CEO Mark Zuckerberg before finally introducing the symbol on its service on February 9, 2009 five years after the social network's creation in a Harvard University dorm room. As happens with many innovations, the Like button was born out of necessity but it wasn't the brainchild of a single person. The concept percolated for more than a decade in a Silicon Valley before Facebook finally embraced it.

"Innovation is often social and Silicon Valley was the right place for all this happen because it has a culture of meet-ups, although it's less so now," Reeves said. "Everyone was getting together to talk about what they were working on at that time and it turned out a lot of them were working on the same stuff." The effort to create a sim-

ple mechanism to digitally express approval or dismay sprouted from a wellspring of online services such as Yelp and YouTube whose success would hinge on their ability to post commentary or video that would help make their sites even more popular without forcing them to spend a lot of money for content. That effort required a feedback loop that wouldn't require a lot of hoops to navigate.

## Hollywood's role in the Like button's saga

And when Goodson was noodling around with his thumbs-up and thumbs-down gesture, it didn't come out of a vacuum. Those techniques of signaling approval and disapproval had been ushered into the 21st century zeitgeist by the Academy Award-winning movie, "Gladiator," where Emperor Commodus portrayed by actor Joaquin Phoenix used the gestures to either spare or slay combatants in the arena.

But the positive feelings conjured by a thumbs up date even further back in popular culture, thanks to the 1950s-era character Fonzie played by Henry Winkler in the top-rated 1970s TV series, "Happy Days." The gesture later became a way of expressing delight with a program via a remote control button for the digital video recorders made by TiVO

during the early 2000s. Around the same time, Hot or Not a site that solicited feedback on the looks of people who shared photos of themselves began playing around with ideas that helped inspire the Like button, based on the book's research. Others that contributed to the pool of helpful ideas included the pioneering news service Digg, the blogging platform Xanga, YouTube and another early video site, Vimeo.

## The button's big breakthrough

But Facebook unquestionably turned the Like button into a universally understood symbol, while also profiting the most from its entrance into the mainstream. And it almost didn't happen.

By 2007, Facebook engineers had been tinkering with a Like button, but Zuckerberg opposed it because he feared the social network was already getting too cluttered and, Reeves said, "is he didn't actually want to do something that would be seen as trivial, that would cheapen the service."

But FriendFeed, a rival social network created by Buchheit and now OpenAI Chairman Bret Taylor, had no such qualms, and unveiled its own Like button in October 2007.

But the button wasn't successful enough to keep the lights on at FriendFeed, and

the service ended up being acquired by Facebook. By the time that deal was completed, Facebook had already introduced a Like button only after Zuckerberg rebuffed the original idea of calling it an Awesome button "because nothing is more awesome than awesome," according to the book's research. Once Zuckerberg relented, Facebook quickly saw that the Like button not only helped keep its audience engaged on its social network but also made it easier to divine people's individual interests and gather the insights required to sell the targeted advertising that accounted for most of Meta Platform's \$165 billion in revenue last year. The button's success encouraged Facebook to take things even further by allowing other digital services to ingrain it into their feedback loops and then, in 2016, added six more types of emotions "love," "care," "haha," "wow," "sad," and "angry."

Facebook hasn't publicly disclosed how many responses it has accumulated from the Like button and its other related options, but Levchin told the book's authors that he believes the company has probably logged trillions of them. "What content is liked by humans...is probably one of the singularly most valuable things on the internet," Levchin said in the book. The Like button also has created an epidemic of emotional problems, especially among adolescents, who feel forlorn if their posts are ignored and narcissists whose egos feast on the positive feedback. Reeves views those issues as part of the unintentional consequences that inevitably happen because "if you can't even predict the beneficial effects of a technological innovation how could you possibly forecast the side effects and the interventions?"

Even so, Reeves believes the Like button and the forces that coalesced to create it tapped into something uniquely human. □



# Sinner to renew rivalry with Alcaraz in Italian Open final

By ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

**ROME (AP)** — Jannik Sinner has gone all the way to the final in his first tournament back from a three-month doping ban.

And Carlos Alcaraz is waiting for him in the Italian Open title match.

The top-ranked Sinner rallied past No. 12 Tommy Paul 1-6, 6-0, 6-3 in the semifinals on Friday as he attempts to become the first Italian man to lift the Rome trophy since Adriano Panatta in 1976.

Earlier, Alcaraz advanced to his first Rome final by beating Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Sunday's final will mark the first meeting between Sinner and Alcaraz since October, when Alcaraz won the China Open final in a third-set tiebreaker. Alcaraz holds a 6-4 edge in his career meetings with Sinner and has won three straight against his biggest rival. But Sinner has not lost since that defeat to Alcaraz in Beijing and is on a 26-match winning streak. He's playing his first tournament since he won his third Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January.

"He's playing great. I've been watching his match-



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns the ball to Italy's Lorenzo Musetti during their semifinal tennis match at the Italian Open, at the Foro Italico, in Rome, Friday, May 16, 2025.

Associated Press

es," Alcaraz said. "His level is really high right now. Every time that I play against him is always a battle, always really, really tough. I kind of enjoy (those) moments."

Sinner cranked up his level to near perfection in a rout of Casper Ruud in the quarterfinals on Thursday. Against Paul, Sinner made unforced errors in the first set while his American opponent hit shot after shot on the lines. But Sinner

quickly turned the match around.

"Everybody saw the game against Casper," Alcaraz said. "It's a huge level." Sinner is the first Italian man in the Rome final since Panatta lost the 1978 title match to Bjorn Borg, and Alcaraz noted that playing Sinner before his home crowd will be "even more challenging."

Sinner's fans have been out in full force for all of his matches, many of them

wearing wigs and hats in orange his theme color. One fan held aloft a sign during the semifinal that translated from Italian to, "Sinner, we missed you." In February, Sinner agreed to a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency that raised questions, since the three-month suspension conveniently allowed him not to miss any Grand Slams and come back at his home tournament.

Rome is the last big warmup

before the French Open starts on May 25.

Alcaraz's run on clay It's the third final in three clay-court events this season for Alcaraz, who won the Monte Carlo Masters and finished runner-up in the Barcelona Open. He withdrew from the Madrid Open because of injury. The third-ranked Alcaraz withdrew from the Madrid tournament with an upper right leg issue and also had a left leg injury. In Rome, he has been wearing a long black brace covering the upper portion of his right leg stretching down to just below his knee.

Musetti took the first set off Alcaraz in the Monte Carlo final but Alcaraz broke the Italian's serve in the first game of the rematch to silence the pro-Musetti crowd on Campo Centrale. Musetti didn't help himself with unforced errors and began pushing Alcaraz only at the end of the set. Musetti was docked a point for misbehavior late in the second set after receiving a warning earlier for breaking his racket.

On a windy day at the Foro Italico, Alcaraz said it wasn't about playing "brilliant," but rather "smart tennis" was required. □

## Ayuso bursts to stage win as Roglič takes overall lead at Giro d'Italia

**TAGLIACOZZO, Italy (AP)**

— Primož Roglič took the overall lead of the Giro d'Italia and Juan Ayuso impressed with his victory in the first summit finish on Friday.

The Spaniard earned his first ever Grand Tour stage victory with a burst of energy 400 meters before the end of the seventh stage, ahead of his UAE Team Emirates teammate Isaac Del Toro and Egan Bernal. Roglič, the pre-race favorite and 2023 champion, crossed next the peloton all four seconds back.

It was good enough for Roglič to take the pink jersey. Ayuso improved to second overall, trailing

Roglič by four seconds. Del Toro was third, nine seconds off the lead.

Friday's stage was the hardest so far with four classified climbs on the 168-kilometer (104 mile) route from Castel di Sangro, including the top category ascent to the finish in Tagliacozzo.

"This win is a big step in my career," Ayuso said. "This is my fourth Grand Tour, I've been close to winning at the Vuelta. To do it today at my first Giro d'Italia is special."

Ayuso calculated his late push.

"I knew that I could do only one attack and not mess around with two or three

on this final which was very explosive," he said. "Others started attacking before. When I saw my distance I went full gas. It was important to not only get the win but also try and recover the time I lost in the time trial."

Femur broken

The big crash in Thursday's stage took its toll on teams. Jai Hindley, the 2022 champion, was concussed.

Before Friday's stage, the Israel-Premier Tech team reported that Czech cyclist Jan Hirt broke his right femur in the crash. Incredibly, Hirt finished the stage and then went to the hospital. Juri Hollmann of

Alpecin Deceuninck sustained a "double fracture of the right forearm and a complicated fracture

of the right hip," his team said. The German was being flown to Belgium for surgery. □



Spain's Juan Ayuso celebrates winning the 7th stage of the Giro d'Italia from Castel di Sangro to Tagliacozzo, Italy, Friday, May 16, 2025.

Associated Press



# Bryson DeChambeau lurking at the PGA Championship and in the mix at another major

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

Bryson DeChambeau had eyes down and lips moving as he made his way to sign his scorecard Friday in the PGA Championship, muttering to himself every step of the way.

DeChambeau looked like someone who had thrown away a good round. He shot 68.

DeChambeau was frustrated with his finish, a tee shot that took one bounce into deep rough, which led to a miscalculation of how it would come out of the rough, which led to bogey.

The big picture? The U.S. Open champion is right in the mix at a major, where he seems to reside a lot these days. It's easy to forget DeChambeau when he's 12 time zones away in Asia on LIV Golf. It's hard to ignore him at the majors.

"It's a great test. I've just got to have my putting a little more on and keep playing the way I am," said DeChambeau, who was at 3-under 139 and five shots behind Jhonattan Vegas.

"It easily could be 7, 8 under right now," he said. "Or I could be even par. So just keep moving along, and I think a 65, 64 is out there. I almost shot it out there today, and I definitely saw it



Bryson DeChambeau hits his tee shot on the 15th hole during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club, Friday, May 16, 2025, in Charlotte, N.C. Associated Press

out there. I just didn't accomplish it."

This wasn't particularly close. DeChambeau opened with a simple birdie on the par-5 10th, but he failed to cash in on the other two par 5s at Quail Hollow a three-putt from 50 feet for par on the 15th, an errant tee shot on the seventh that forced him to lay up and made it difficult to hit wedge close with a back pin.

There also was a trio of medium-range birdie putts, one of them on the tough

16th, so there was plenty of good in there. It was that bogey on the ninth hole that left him muttering.

"I hit it down the left-hand side, a little bit of a draw, and it bounced into the rough," he said. "It was sitting up, and I just went under it a fraction and it hit the top of the face and came out dead. Really regret not just spending 10 more seconds to look at it and go, 'OK, I need to choke down a little bit on that second shot.'"

It came out 30 yards short,

he pitched to 10 feet and he missed the par putt.

DeChambeau spent the muggy morning in front of a wall of spectators, except on holes with water on one side of the fairway. They rarely leave disappointed, whether it was his near ace in the opening round or his sheer strength on nearly every swing.

DeChambeau long has been an enigma in what can be such a predictable sport, particularly with his successful chase to find speed and enormous pow-

er, and with his work on YouTube that is approaching 2 million viewers.

He can disappear on LIV Golf, particularly when the events are held in Asia. But he won the most recent LIV event, and he always seems to perform on big stages like the majors.

In this one, he still has ground to make up.

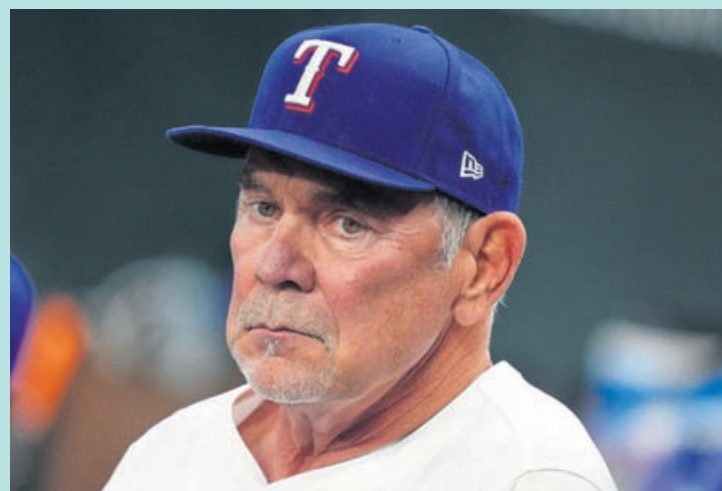
"I felt like I was playing good, just didn't get anything out of it," he said. "Still got some weird breaks out there. That's what this golf course does to you. It was tricky with the wind kind of swirling, but for the most part, I felt pretty good."

That's the talk of just about every golfer at this level, a strong memory of all the little things that went wrong, a short memory for what worked out for them.

Surely there were a few things that went right Friday? DeChambeau mentioned the wind dying ever so slightly on the par-3 fourth, allowing his shot to catch the right side of the green to set up a 12-foot birdie putt.

And then he started going through the rest of the holes trees on No. 2, not getting a firm bounce on the par-3 17th. His thoughts were interrupted to remind him he was supposed to mention the good breaks. □

# Bruce Bochy passes Sparky Anderson with 2,195th career win for 6th among all-time MLB managers



Texas Rangers manager Bruce Bochy sits in the dugout before a baseball game against the Houston Astros, Thursday, May 15, 2025, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Bruce Bochy got his 2,195th career win to break a tie with Sparky Anderson for the sixth-most by an MLB manager when the Texas Rangers beat the Houston Astros 1-0 on Thursday night. Bochy, who turned 70 last month and is in his 28th season as a manager, has a record of 2,195-2,206 in regular-season games with Texas, San Diego and San Francisco. He has won four World Series titles, three with the Giants and the only one ever for the Rangers in 2023 in his return to the dugout after a three-season retirement from managing.

"I told the players I'd like to honor Sparky. I grew up a Reds fan. My dad was, he got me on the Reds," said Bochy, also a for-

mer big league catcher. "A Big Red Machine fan, Johnny Bench was my guy. He probably inspired me to play this game as much as anybody."

There was a Champagne toast in the Texas clubhouse after the game, and included what Bochy said were "some beautiful words" from Chris Young, the team's president of baseball operations. Young pitched for him in San Diego, and was the general manager when the Rangers hired Bochy in October 2022.

The five managers ahead of Bochy on the career wins list, and Anderson, are all in the baseball Hall of Fame. Next ahead of Bochy in fifth place is Joe Torre's 2,326. Connie Mack is the career leader with 3,731 wins, followed by Tony La Russa, John McGraw and Bobby Cox. □